THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) Facts are being ascertained from the Government of Punjab and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Proposal to set up a Small Industry Bank

@2500. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to set up a Small Indusry Bank;

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposal; and

(c) by when it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) Government is considering to set up a Small Industries Development Bank of India as a Subsidiary of the Industrial Development Bank of India to cater to the financial needs of small scale and tiny sector industries. The equity of the new bank would be Rs. 250 crores. Suitable steps for setting up of the Bank are being taken.

Memorandum from Tirumala-Tirupati Devasthanam for tax relief

2501. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any memorandum from Tirumala-Tirupati Devasthanam for tax relief; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken on the said memorandum?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) Yes Sir, Thirumala Tirupati Devasthanam has sent a memorandum for continuing the exemption from payment of income-tax in the wake of the deletion by the Direct Tax Laws (Amendment) Act, 1987 with effect from 1-4-1989 of section 10(23C) (iv)/(v) of the Income-tax Act under which the exemption was granted to the Devasthanam.

(b) According to the statement made in the Parliament on 5th September, 1988, the position of income-tax exemption in respect of religious and charitable trusts and institutions would continue to be the same till 31-3-1990 *i.e.* assessment year 1989-90 as it was before the Direct Tax Laws (Amendment) Act, 1987. The issues raised in various representations received on this point have been examined by the Government and the decisions thereon will be reflected in the proposed Direct Tax Laws (Amendment) Bill.

Training to staff for Probationary Officers' Examinations in SBI

2502. PROF. (MRS.) ASIMA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Bank of India has recently formulated a scheme whereunder intensive pre-examination training would be given to the candidates belonging to the Muslim, Sikh, Christian and other communities so as to equip them for the examination to be shortly held for recruitment to the posts of Probationary Officers in the Bank; and

(b) if so, what are the considerations on which such a scheme has

@ Previously unstarred question 2048, transferred from the 28th November, 1988.